Delay in appointment of CMD of ONGC

817. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in the appointment Of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC);

(b) whether it is a fact that the panel recommended by the Public Enterprises Selection Board was scrapped; and

(c) if so, when the post had fallen vacant; when the PESB had recommended the panel and when and why it was scrapped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has fallen vacant with effect from 25.5.2006, consequent on the expiry of the five year term of Shri Subir Raha, then CMD, ONGC. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) had recommended the panel on 30.8.2006. The proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for appointment of Shri R.S. Sharma, Director (Finance), ONGC from the panel recommended by the PESB, as CMD ONGC had been returned on 6.2.2007 by the Competent Authority with direction to provide for fresh selection from a wider choice including candidates from outside PSUs, and also that the selection of CMD ONGC be made through a Search-cum-Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, PESB.

Black marketing and under weighing of LPG cylinders

†818. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crisis of LPG cylinders has emerged in the country due to inadequate supply of LPG cylinders;

(b) whether Government are aware that alleged black marketing of LPG cylidners is taking palce in Western Uttar Pradesh due to problem' of demand and supply; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check black marketing and under weighing of LPG cylinders and to ensure their smooth supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported crisis in procurement./ supply of LPG cylinders in the country. However, OMCs have reported some shortage in the supply of new LPG cylinders in the State of Kerala due to inadequate supply of cylinders by cylinder manufacturers. The situation is likely to improve from April, 2007 onwards.

(b) and (c) OMCs have reported instances of black marketing/supply of under-weight domestic LPG cylinders by their LPG distributors in the country, including Western Uttar Pradesh. Whenever OMCs receive complaints regarding black marketing/supply of underweight cylinders, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) concerned in accordance with the provisions of the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). MDG provides for following action against the distributor-Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against black marketing of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the State/UT initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying under-weight LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorised usage.

Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/ malpractice to the OMCs.

Further, LPG distributors are also under instructions to ensure100% weighment of cylinders at their godown before delivery at the customers' premises. In a bid to enhance customer satisfaction levels, distributors in selected markets have been advised by OMCs to provide a spring balance to enbale the customer to verify the correctness of the weight of LPG in the cylinder. OMCs have introduced this scheme in major markets of the country.

The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no pilferage takes piace. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customes. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals ae verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges levied by the OMCs.

Extraction of crude oil by ONGC

†819. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC, a public sector company, has been given maximum responsibility for extraction of crude oil from the available crude oil reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of crude oil extraction for which ONGC has been entrusted with the responsibility, till December, 2006;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ONGC is extracting 28 per cent oil, and if not, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is even then the Internationa! average and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) accounted for 75.8% of country's

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.